

REMARKS

Applicants have replaced claims 109-121, 123-164 and 166 with newly submitted claims 167-206. Newly submitted claims 167-206 have been drafted to better distinguish applicants' invention over the art of record. Ample antecedent basis exists in the application for the newly submitted claims so applicants have added no new matter.

Before addressing the rejections, applicants will summarize their invention to assist the examiner in better appreciating the differences between the newly submitted claims and the art of record. As recited in newly submitted claim 167, applicants have provided a method of controlling at least one camera to capture the image of *a plurality of different objects in a common area by controlling the camera field of view responsive to a command from a corresponding one of a plurality of users, each associated with an object*. To accomplish this task, an automatic control system remembers a field of view associated with each object. When one of the users issues a command to capture the image of an associated object, the system identifies the user and controls the field of view of the camera in accordance with field of view remembered for the object associated with the user identified as entering the command.

35 U.S.C. 102(e) Rejection of Claims 109, 126, 163 and 166

Claims 109, 126, 163, and 166 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,917,543, issued June 29, 1999, from an application filed May 1, 1996, in the name of Tsukasa Uehara. Applicants have cancelled claims 109, 126, 163, and 166, the four previously pending independent claims in this application, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, and have replaced them with newly submitted claims 167-206. The newly submitted claims patentably distinguish over the art of record for the reasons given below.

Applicants newly submitted independent claims 167, 181, and 205, and the claims that depend therefrom, recite the feature of controlling at least one camera to capture the image of a plurality of different objects in a common area. Camera control occurs by controlling the camera field of view responsive to a command from a corresponding one of a plurality of users, each user associated with a respective object. Because each user can command the camera to capture the image of a different objects, user identification must occur to associate the particular field of view remembered for the object associated with the user who that entered the command.

The Uehara patent does not teach or disclose the features now recited in applicants' newly submitted independent claims in claim 167, 181, and 205, and the claims that depend therefrom. The videoconference system in Uehara utilizes a pair of cameras (10, 12) at each conference site. However, Uehara does not control the field of view of either camera to capture the image of *each of a plurality of different objects in a common area*. At best, the cameras (10a and 10b) at the conference sites "a" and "b" capture the image of the operator at that respective site, while the cameras (12a and 12b) each capture the image of an original document at the respective site. Neither of the cameras 10a and 10b nor 12a and 12b captures the image of more than one object in a common area. Thus, the control system (32) at each remote site does not remember the field of view of each of *a plurality of objects* as recited in applicants' newly submitted claims 167, 181 and 205 and incorporated by reference in the claims that depend therefrom.

Moreover, the Uehara videoconference system does not disclose or suggest multiple users, each associated with a separate object within a common area, for controlling the field of view of one or more cameras to capture the object associated with a particular user. At best, Uehara contemplates a single operator at each videoconference site for controlling a camera to image a single object. Uehara contemplates only a single object for imaging by a camera and thus has no need to identify a particular one of a plurality of users in order to obtain the particular camera field of view remembered for the object associated with the user who has entered a command to image the object. For this reason, applicants claims 167, 181, and 205, and the claims that depend therefrom patentably distinguish over the Uehara patent.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 110-125, 127-137, 141-162 and 164

Claims 110-125, 127-137, 141-162 and 164 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the Uehara patent, in view of U.S. Patent 5,471,296, issued in the name of Jeffrey L. Parker et al. Applicants have cancelled claims 110-125, 127-137, 141-162 and 164, and substituted claims 167-206 discussed previously. Newly submitted claims 167-206 patentably distinguish over the combination of Uehara and Parker et al.

Applicants have discussed the Uehara patent above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) claim rejection and will not repeat that discussion here. For purposes of the instant rejection, applicants reiterate that the Uehara et al. patent does not teach the feature of remembering the field of view of each of *a plurality of objects*. Further, the Uehara patent does not teach applicants' feature of identifying a particular one of a plurality of users in order

to obtain the particular camera field of view remembered for the object associated with the user who has entered a command to image the object.

The Parker et al. patent concerns a television lens control system that allows for control of various functions of a television camera lens, such as control of the iris, focus and zoom parameters, in conjunction with automatic tracking of an object. A control circuit can remember different fields of view for selection.

In rejecting now cancelled claims 110-125, 127-137, 141-162 and 164, the examiner contends that the Uehara patent teaches a two camera system under control of an operator, but fails to teach issuing commands to remember the field of view. To overcome this deficiency, the examiner cites the Parker et al. patent for teaching an automatic control system under control of a user for remembering different field of views. However, like the Uehara patent, the Parker et al. patent contains no disclosure regarding identifying a particular one of a plurality of users in order to obtain the particular camera field of view remembered for the object associated with the user who has entered a command to image the object, as recited in applicants' newly submitted claims 167-206. At best, the Parker et al. patent deals with a single user, and would not suggest the need to discriminate among multiple users. For this reason, the combination of Uehara and Parker et al. would not render obvious applicants' newly submitted claims.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 138-140

Previously pending claims 138-140 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the Uehara patent, in view of the Parker et al. patent, further in view of U.S. Patent 5,818,513, issued October 6, 1998, from an application filed May 17, 1994, in the name of Soichi Sano et al. Applicants have now cancelled all the previously pending claims, including claims 138-140. In place of the previously pending claims, applicants have substituted newly written claims 167-206 of which claims 187-191 concern enabling audio signals.

Claims 187-191 depend from claim 181 and incorporate by reference all of the features of their parent claim. Thus, claims 187-191 incorporate by reference the features of (a) identifying which user issued a command, (b) changing the field of view position of one of the cameras to a remembered field of view for the object associated with the user that issued the command; (c) remembering the control device that issued the command. As discussed previously, neither the Uehara and Parker et al. patents, nor their combination, disclose or

suggest identifying each of multiple users in a video conference system to enable retrieval of a previously stored field of view for an object associated with that user.

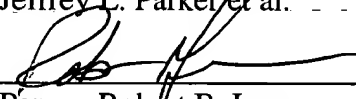
At best, the Sano et al. patent discloses a multi-site video conferencing system includes a conference control unit that manages connections to each of a plurality of terminals using connection data to achieve a linkage to the terminals via a single call. There is no suggestion or disclosure in the Sano patent regarding identifying the users to enable retrieval of a previously stored field of view for an object associated with that user. Thus, combining the Sano et al. patent with the Uehara and Parker et al. patents would not yield the features recited in claim 181, and by implication, the features recited in claims 187-191. Accordingly, claims 187-191 patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, applicants respectfully solicit favorable consideration of the newly submitted claims. If the Examiner is believes that such action cannot be taken, she is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6820 to arrange for a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview.

If any fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account **07-0832**.

Respectfully submitted,
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